

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3567

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: UN, EAGR, OCON
SUBJECT: SELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

A) ROME 2660; B) MANILA 3259

1. ARTURO TANCO OF THE PHILIPPINES IS BEING PRESENTED AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, TO REPLACE SAYED MAREI OF EGYPT, ALONG LINES DISCUSSED BETWEEN GROUP-77 AND SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES (REFTEL. AMBASSADOR RODRIGO OF SRI LANKA, CHAIRMAN OF GROUP-77, TOLD THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MARCH 2 THAT TANCO WOULD BE REPRESENTED AS A CANDIDATE, AND ALREADY HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN REGIONS, BUT AFRIC (MAREI'S REGION) HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROACHED. (COMMENT: THIS IS A REVERSAL OF THE TACTIC CONTEMPLATED IN THE EARLIER MEETING IN WHICH AFRICA WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROACHED FIRST TO TRY TO WEAKEN MAREI'S EFFORT AT RE-ELECTION. THE PRESENT TACTIC WOULD DEVELOP STRENGTH FOR TANCO, AND TRY THEREBY TO DISCOURAGE MAREI'S CANDIDACY.)

2. PHILIPPINE ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO CARANDANG CONFIRMED ON MARCH 3 THAT TANCO IS A CANDIDATE, AND SAID THAT THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY INFORM OTHER GOVERNMENTS OFFICIALLY BY NOTE. CARANDANG SAID HE HOPED THE UNITED STATES WOULD SUPPORT TANCO'S CANDIDACY. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
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SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, BUT HE KNEW TANCO WAS HIGHLY REGARDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND HE WOULD REPORT HIS CANDIDACY. CARANDANG AND THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AGREED, AS BEFORE IN THE CASE OF TANCO'S CANDIDACY FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT, THAT TANCO'S CAMPAIGN WOULD BEST BE ON HIS OWN CREDENTIALS AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY LEADER, AND THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE U.S. SUPPORT WOULD BE NOT TO CAMPAIGN OPENLY FOR HIM, BUT TO

PERMIT THE PHILIPPINES TO SAY THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTS HIM,
AND FOR THE UNITED STATES TO EXPRESS THIS SUPPORT TO OTHER
COUNTRIES WHEN ASKED.

3. AMBASSADOR RODRIGO ALSO TOLD THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ON
MARCH 2 THAT MANY OF THE GROUP-77 REPRESENTATIVES ARE OPPOSED
TO THE RE-ELECTION OF LANDYMORE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AS
RAPPORTEUR. THE OPPOSITION IS
BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPLETE CHANGE OF ALL THE BUREAU.
(COMMENT: IT IS TRUE THAT IT WOULD BE AWKWARD TO SET MAREI
ASIDE AS PRESIDENT ON THE PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION, WHILE RE-
ELECTING ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE BUREAU. THE CHANGE OF RAPPORTEUR
MAY HAVE THE EFFECT, HOWEVER, WHETHER INTENDED OR NOT, OF
RE-OPENING THE OLD CONTROVERSIES ABOUT FORM OF ACTION AND REPORT
OF THE COUNCIL). AMBASSADOR RODRIGO SAID HE HAD TOLD LANDYMORE
AND WAS TELLING THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ALSO OUT OF MORAL
OBLIGATION, BUT HE ASKED U.S. REPRESENTATIVE NOT TO INDICATE
TO LANDYMORE THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
INTENDS TO REJECT THIS ADVICE, AND TO REMAIN SILENT AND LET LANDYMORE
WORK HIMSELF OUT OF THE PROBLEM. LANDYMORE'S ANNOUNCED AVAIL-
ABILITY, WITH THE CONSENT OF HIS GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPED OUT OF THE
INITIATIVE OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT. NORMALLY ONE
MIGHT LOOK TO THE SECRETARIAT TO HELP WORK SUCH PROBLEMS OUT,
BUT THIS SECRETARIAT IS NOT VERY GOOD AT THIS JOB, PARTLY
BECAUSE OF THE CONFRONTATIONS THAT HAVE DEVELOPED IN THE
WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 1975 AND 1976. IN ANY EVENT THE
GROUP-77 VIEW THAT THE RAPPORTEUR AS WELL AS THE OTHER OFFICERS
SHOULD BE REPLACED WILL SOON BE COMMON KNOWLEDGE: THE INDONESIAN
AND YUGOSLAV REPRESENTATIVES ON MARCH 3 TOLD
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THE DEPUTY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO THAT THEY AND MANY OTHERS
BELIEVED THAT ALL THE OFFICERS SHOULD BE CHANGED. WE NEED,
THEREFORE TO COME UP WITH ANOTHER GOOD CANDIDATE, PREFERABLY
ONE WITH BACKGROUND IN THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SESSIONS, WHETHER FROM
ROME OR FROM CAPITAL.
HERE IN ROME, ALPEN OF AUSTRALIA WOULD PROBABLY BE THE BEST
QUALIFIED, BUT WE HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE THAT HE EXPECT TO BE
TRANSFERRED TO CANBERRA LATE THIS YEAR.

4. GROUP 77 MEMBERS ALSO ARE INDICATING THAT THEY STILL CONSIDER THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POST A PART OF THE PROBLEM OF THE BUREAU
AND WANT A CHANGE IN THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POST AS WELL.
THIS WILL BE COVERED IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM. BEAUDRY

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